

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SU, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS

REF: KHARTOUM 1470

1. REFTEL REPORTED EFFORTS BY ROK CONGEN HERE TO HAVE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS LABEL ITEMS PLACED BY NORTH KOREANS AS POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS. FOLLOWING THIS EFFORT LAST MAY, THERE WAS A SHORT PERIOD DURING WHICH NO NORTH KOREAN PLACEMENTS APPEARED. HOWEVER, OVER PAST FEW WEEKS THEY BEGAN APPEARING AGAIN. DURING PAST WEEK ON ANNIVERSARY OF VISIT MADE TO PYONG-YANG BY NIMEIRI IN 1970, NORTH KOREANS PLACED ITEM CONTAINING REMARKS BY KIM II-SUNG AND BY NIMEIRI. THIS FOLLOWED TWO-PART PLACEMENT OF KIM II-SUNG PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS.
2. NIMEIRI MADE HIS TRIP TO NORTH KOREA AT TIME WHEN HE WAS MUCH FRIENDLIER TO COMMUNIST AND RADICAL REGIMES THAN IS CASE TODAY. HE APPARENTLY IS EMBARRASSED NOW TO SEE HIS NAME LINKED WITH KIM II-SUNG IN NEWSPAPER ITEM WHICH CONTAINS STATEMENT BY NORTH KOREAN LEADER CALLING FOR SOLIDARITY BETWEEN "THE TWO PEOPLES AGAINST US IMPERIALISM AND THE JOINT ENEMY".

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3. CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TOLD ACTING PAO

THAT OFFENSIVE PLACEMENT WAS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF NEW PRIME MINISTER, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, AND HE IN TURN INSTRUCTED MINISTER OF INFORMATION TO SEE THAT SUCH PLACEMENTS WERE STOPPED.

4. COMMENT: NIMEIRI HAS MOVED FAR TO RIGHT OF POSITIONS HE HELD IN LATE 1960S AND EARLY 1970S, ESPECIALLY SINCE COMMUNIST ASSISTED COUP ATTEMPT IN 1971. MOREOVER, IN LAST FEW MONTHS HE HAS MOUNTED MAJOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US AND TO ATTRACT AND FACILITATE PRIVATE US INVESTMENT HERE. NORTH KOREAN ITEM, THEREFORE, IS EMBARRASSING AND NOT REALLY REPRESENTATIVE OF NIMEIRI'S PRESENT VIEWS AND POLICIES. NOT SURPRISING, THEREFORE, THAT PRIME MINISTER SHOULD QUICKLY MOVE TO SEE THAT SUCH PLACEMENTS ARE DISCONTINUED.

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